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THE

COMPASS.

A

POETICAL PERFORMANCE

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BY

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+ or Quarterly vesta tion

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

THE

COMPASS.

WHILE frenzied chiefs their fruſtrate ſlaughter ſtay'd,
And bleeding valor curſt the vain cruſade;
While glooms oblivious whelm'd the abject mind,
And moral Chaos wanton'd o'er mankind;
Nature, thro' love to man in happy hour,
Reveal'd the ſecrets of the *magnet's* power.
Her favourite now a magic force diſcerns,
Which the poiz'd points to heavens congenial turns,
With nice direction indicates each pole,
And quivers equal to the fond control.
Oh think the rapture! think the ſoul intranc'd,
On GOIA's mind when this diſcovery glanc'd.

Now milder labours calm the frantic age,
No more the prey of ſelf-deſtructive rage.
Reaſon now uſhers in with glimmering ray
The approaching ſplendors of regenerate day;
Young phenix Science feels an unknown ſpring
Inform her frame and nerve her heavenward wing.

Exulting now no more with ſervile mark
To every nook conforms the creeping bark,
But dares, regardleſs of a threatening ſky,
Where ſhores receding mock the toiling eye.

Commerce henceforth thoſe deathful regions flies,
Where whelm'd in arid ſand her votary dies;
Or where the dark, inſidious Arab clan
Ruſh murderous on her faultering caravan.
Crown'd by the *Compaſs*, empreſs of the main,
She joins all nations with a golden chain.

Tho' baſe mankind, in every age the ſame,
To worth reluctant yield the meed of fame,
Yet GOIA's brow the verdant wreath ſhall grace,
Which Time's malicious ſcythe can ne'er diſplace.

The bigot Helm, to aged practice us'd,
Cautious this *new* conductor long refus'd;
Till LUSITANIA, whoſe too bounded ſoil
Precluded half her ſons from rural toil,
With venturous ſpirit ſought on NEPTUNE's fields
What generous CERES but too ſparely yields.
Her dauntleſs prow the tempeſt ne'er repuls'd,
Nor raging ſuns, nor boundleſs waves convuls'd.
DIAZ, her boaſt, had gain'd the *Cape of Hope*,
Whence Indian climes in flattering proſpect ope,
When great COLUMBUS, nurtur'd by the wave
To hardſhip born, in every danger brave

Matur'd the project, which to endleſs days
Commands enlarg'd mankind's unbounded praiſe.

But ah, how hard that unatton'd for curſe,—
The man, *in genius rich*, is *poor in purſe!*
COLUMBUS ſuppliant for a throne's ſupport
Long bore the ſly duplicity of court;
E'en in a blockhead-monarch's cold reſpect
Felt the keen pangs of genius in neglect.

At length, as vernal ſuns thro' ether's gloom
With genial radiance bid glad nature bloom,
The illuſtrious *conſort* of IBERIA'S throne
The lovely patron of the hero ſhone.
Oh peerleſs woman, to thy ſmile we owe
Each varied joy, COLUMBIA can beſtow,——
E'en the kind FAIR; whoſe all-ſubduing art
With bliſsful ſway *attracts* the *trembling* heart.

With courſe direct his rapid flight he ſteer'd,
Where changeleſs gales the canvaſs never veer'd.
His ſhrinking followers, raſhly led to roam,
Mourn'd the ſad hour, they left their dear-lov'd home.
While hope-forſaken, petrified with fear,
Their rebel murmurs ſtrike the leader's ear,
Nature, as federate in the general cauſe,
Reſigns to faction her inverted laws,
The MENTOR-*magnet* loſes power to guide,
Its ſoul diſorder'd mid the wildering tide.

In every toil the chief ſerenely great
Wore the feign'd ſmile, and mock'd impending fate;
Till from the convex flood his laboring ſight
Beheld a WORLD emerging into light.

Hail mighty chief! this rapturous hour repairs
A glorious life of hardſhips and of cares;

Envy recoils from thy o'erpowering fame,
And Time ſtands guardian of thy deathleſs name.

This vaſt atchievement bold ambition fir'd;
To equal toils each rival realm aſpir'd.
While infant Commerce play'd on BRITAIN's ſhores,
Her CABOT's nearer ſail theſe climes explores;
DRAKE the glad ſail of enterpriſe unfurl'd
And wav'd the ſtreamer round the aſtoniſh'd world.

While vaſſall'd EUROPE bleſs theſe weſtern lands,
While Virtue's ſoul with gratitude expands;
Unconquer'd avarice ſtill controls the age,
And wild ambition fires with deadlier rage.
Oft as humanity, thro' tears, ſhall view
The blood-whelm'd ſcenes of MEXIC and PERU,
Wrath inſtantaneous reddening in her face
Shall damn the Spaniard from the human race.

Far different aims inſpire the pious hoſts,
Who, heaven-protected ſeek theſe dreary coaſts.
Our great forefathers nobly ſpurn the land,
Where hierarch flames o'er ſouls uſurp command;
Where Perſecution, with her *vengeful rod*,
In *bigot* frenzy, *vindicates her God.*
Vain the exertions of tyrannic force,
Vain every peril to oppoſe their courſe;
Too high the object, which inſpires their breaſt,
Too ſtrong their moving fire—to be repreſt.

Here Empire's germ with rapid vigor grew,
Sun'd by GOD's ſmile, and fed with heavenly dew,
Till o'er this halcyon land the vine had ſpread,
And nurturing ſkies receiv'd its nodding head.

Here, bleſt COLUMBIA, nature's gifts combine,
To make the important aid of Commerce thine.

Here Agriculture, dreſt in virgin pride,
Invites the embraces of the conſtant Tide.
Hail! potent Commerce, who canſt well defy
Ungrateful tillage, and a frowning ſky:
Enrich'd by thee, PHŒNICIA's rocks may ſmile
In the luxuriance of each foreign ſoil;
Gain'd from the yielding Ocean's juſt domains,
E'en Paradiſe may bloom on BELGIA's plains.

But, every good conceals a latent ill;
Beneath a *ſweetmeat* lurks the *fatal pill.*
To ſhare trade's bleſſings, and its ills avoid
Has long the ſtatesman's baffled ſchemes employ'd.
Ere long muſt Luxury's gaudy poiſon ſteal
Its nervous ſtrength from Freedom's heavenly zeal;
Soon ſpecious vice and every gilded art
To baſe venality corrupt the heart.

May weeping man the era never ſee,
When as is CARTHAGE—ſhall COLUMBIA be!
When glorious works of art ſhall mouldering lie,
And threat'ning *Ruins* hold the diſtant eye;
Statues of WASHINGTON ſhall ſink in duſt,
His name unreſcued from oppreſſive ruſt;
ADAMS ſhall ſleep, unhonor'd mid the dead,
And HANCOCK's broken column ſcarce be read.

But ſure for this the *magnet* ne'er reveal'd
Theſe realms of bliſs by Nature ſo conceal'd!
Kind heaven, forbid the honeſt patriots' breaſt
By merely *fancied* woes ſhould be depreſt!

More true inſpir'd, we antedate the time,
When futile war ſhall ceaſe thro' every clime;
No ſanction'd ſlavery AFRIC's ſons degrade,
But equal rights ſhall equal earth pervade;

When fearleſs Commerce by the *compaſs* led
On every wave her *ſacred flag* ſhall ſpread,
With liberal courſe to either pole ſhall run,
Or round the zodiac travel with the ſun;
No narrow treaty ſell the boundleſs ſea,
Which nature's charter to the world made free;
When all the compact, which this globe ſhall bind,
Shall be the *mutual good* of all mankind;
When welcome COOKS earth's union'd round ſhall ſail,
And view unbounded bliſs thro' every land prevail.

FINIS.